

HEREFORDSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL



ANNUAL REPORT
OF THE
COUNTY MEDICAL OFFICER
OF HEALTH
FOR THE YEAR
1948

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**To the Chairman and Members of the Health Committee of the
Herefordshire County Council.**

MR. CHAIRMAN, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to present my Annual Report on the public health of Herefordshire and upon the services provided by the Committee for the year 1948.

The birth rate was 18.7 per thousand of the population, rather higher than that for England and Wales. An unsatisfactory feature was the high infant mortality rate—43.7 per thousand registered live births compared with 34 for England and Wales. An analysis of the causes of death of infants under 1 year of age is made in the body of the Report. It is hoped that certain recommendations made will lead to rather better care for premature babies. There were no major epidemics during the year and the decline in the incidence of diphtheria, with no deaths, is further proof of the efficacy of the immunisation campaign.

The year 1948 marked the introduction of the National Health Service Act, 1946, but the half-year from the “appointed day” is too short a period on which to base any considered opinion of the effect of the new Act, either on the public health of the County, or on the services provided by the Authority under Part III of the Act. On the whole, these Services appear to be working well.

The biggest change was the taking over of the District Nurses/Midwives by the Authority from the Nursing Associations which had hitherto employed them. This was carried out with the ready co-operation of the County Nursing Association to which body the Committee has delegated certain responsibilities—such matters as accommodation for nurses, staff education, equipment and uniform.

The Authority has purchased an excellent site for a comprehensive Health Centre in Hereford. Preliminary consultations are taking place with representatives of the Regional Hospital Board, and the Local Executive Council, to decide on the functions for which the proposed Health Centre will be used.

The Report includes notes on the Mental Health Service, and on the dental treatment provided for expectant and nursing mothers and young children during the year.

I have to acknowledge the assistance I have received in the compilation of this Report from the clerical staff.

I have the honour to be,

Your obedient servant,

J. S. COOKSON,

County Medical Officer.

November, 1949.

COUNTY STAFF.

County Medical Officer of Health—

J. S. COOKSON, M.A., M.D., D.P.H., Barrister-at-Law.

Deputy County Medical Officer—

S. HEWITT, M.B., B.S., B.HY., D.P.H.

Clinical Tuberculosis Officer—

T. V. R. PHILIP, M.B., D.P.H. (By arrangement with Birmingham Regional Hospital Board)

Assistant County Medical Officers of Health and Assistant School Medical Officers—

*W. HOGG, M.B., B.S., D.P.H.

*H. F. GREEN, M.B., B.CH., D.P.H. (Resigned 31/5/48)

*M. J. PLEYDELL, M.C., M.D., D.P.H. (Appointed 1/6/48).

MARY McKELVIE, M.B., CH.B.

*R. T. THOMSON, M.B., CH.B., D.P.H. (Appointed 1/9/48).

*Also District Medical Officers of Health.

Supervisor of Midwives and Superintendent of Nurses—

MISS B. SHENTON, M.B.E., S.R.N., S.C.M. (Resigned 31/8/48).

MISS F. E. SIMKINS, S.R.N., S.C.M. (Appointed 1/10/48).

Deputy Supervisor of Midwives and Superintendent of Nurses—

MISS F. M. TOMBS, S.R.N., S.C.M. (Resigned 12/6/48).

MISS J. K. WENBORN, S.R.N., S.C.M. (Appointed 16/8/48).

Assistant Supervisors of Midwives & Superintendents of Nurses—

MISS E. J. KERFOOT, S.R.N., S.C.M.

MISS V. M. KING, S.R.N., S.C.M.

MISS L. E. ROBERTS, S.R.N., S.C.M. (Appointed 15/7/48).

HEALTH VISITORS AND MIDWIVES.

The Staff of 50 nurses carry out midwifery and Health Visitors duties in addition to District Nursing.

CLERICAL STAFF.

*Chief Clerk—*L. A. Nicholls, C.R.S.I.

DISTRICT MEDICAL OFFICERS OF HEALTH.

Bromyard U.D.C.

„ R.D.C.

Kington U.D.C.

„ R.D.C.

Leominster Borough

Leominster & Wigmore R.D.C.

Weobley R.D.C.

Dr. M. J. Pleydell.

Dore & Bredwardine R.D.C.

Ledbury U.D.C.

Ledbury R.D.C.

Ross-on-Wye U.D.C.

Ross & Whitchurch R.D.C.

Dr. William Hogg.

Hereford City

Dr. R. T. Thomson

Hereford R.D.C.

Dr. R. Wood Power.

GENERAL STATISTICS.

AREA 528934 ACRES

DISTRICT	1945			1946			1947			1948		
	Live Births	Deaths	Pop.	Live Births	Deaths	Pop.	Live Births	Deaths	Pop.	Live Births	Deaths	Pop.
URBAN.												
Bromyard	23	18	1606	27	24	1543	37	22	1524	32	28	1666
Hereford City (M.B.) ...	583	388	30510	642	348	31370	686	397	31870	604	339	32150
Kington	35	26	1972	33	28	1986	41	29	1990	40	21	1968
Ledbury	52	43	3321	81	57	3404	72	53	3408	54	42	3667
Leominster (M.B.)	99	81	5862	121	90	5941	129	90	6078	132	77	6170
Ross-on-Wye	74	81	4649	100	81	4776	121	75	4870	91	66	5180
Total Urban Districts ...	866	637	47920	1004	628	49020	1086	666	49740	953	573	50801
RURAL.												
Bromyard	140	95	7382	149	84	7084	170	110	7007	129	68	7408
Dore and Bredwardine ...	132	90	7361	161	90	7441	170	99	7658	170	89	8368
Hereford	239	171	13340	269	181	13710	266	149	13930	237	153	14400
Kington	86	66	4655	96	68	4685	99	70	4696	86	60	4752
Ledbury	142	99	8334	180	111	8541	159	108	8551	166	99	9013
Leominster and Wigmore ...	167	148	9844	204	142	9989	194	131	10210	214	128	10530
Ross and Whitchurch ...	207	154	11650	220	166	11790	232	185	11890	196	150	11780
Weobley	91	76	6194	129	77	6110	133	73	6388	159	72	6548
Total Rural Districts ...	1204	899	68760	1408	919	69350	1423	925	70330	1357	819	72799
Total County	2070	1536	116680	2412	1547	118370	2509	1591	120070	2310	1392	123600

ENGLAND AND WALES.

	1945	1946	1947	1948
Live Births ...	685,273	819,894	886,799	777,648
Deaths... ..	488,108	492,088	517,613	470,282

Population 42,750,000 approx. Reg.-Gen. estimates.

MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE

The County Council is responsible for the administration of the Midwives' Acts, and the section of the National Health Service Act, 1946, relating to the Care of Mothers and Young Children. The area administered covers the whole county.

The proposals under Section 22—Care of Mothers and Young Children—of the National Health Service Act, 1946, set out the arrangements for Infant Welfare Centres which have operated from the "appointed day." Briefly these are that the Hereford City Infant Welfare Centre is being administered directly by the County Health Department, and the Infant Welfare Centres in the rural areas are being administered by the existing voluntary committees.

Since Hereford City is no longer a welfare authority, the responsibility for the provision of day nursery accommodation passes to the County Council. Consideration is being given to the possibility of establishing a comprehensive training scheme for the training of Nursery Students at the nurseries in Hereford.

The following is a summary of statistics relating to Maternity and Child Welfare Services :

	1945 <i>County</i>	1946 <i>County</i>	1947 <i>County</i>	1948 <i>County</i>
Population	116,680	118,370	120,070	123,600
Live Births :				
Legitimate (M)	966	1141	1176	1161
(F)	844	1017	1154	986
(T)	1810	2158	2330	2147
Illegitimate (M)	139	136	90	76
(F)	121	118	89	87
(T)	260	254	179	163
Total Live Births	2070	2412	2509	2310
Still Births :				
Legitimate (M)	21	26	33	34
(F)	23	25	38	18
(T)	44	51	71	52
Illegitimate (M)	5	5	2	1
(F)	5	—	5	1
(T)	10	5	7	2
Total Still Births	54	56	78	54
Number of Infant Deaths	87	83	97	101
Number of Maternal Deaths	8	4	5	3
Due to Sepsis	2	—	1	1
Due to other causes	6	4	4	2

	1945		1946		1947		1948	
	<i>County</i>	<i>Eng. & Wales</i>	<i>County</i>	<i>Eng. & Wales</i>	<i>County</i>	<i>Eng. & Wales</i>	<i>County</i>	<i>Eng. & Wales</i>
Live Birth Rate	17.7	16.1	20.3	19.1	20.9	20.5	18.7	17.9
Still Birth Rate	28.7	28.0	23.2	27.9	31.1	24.1	23.4	23
Illegitimacy Birth Rate	125.6	92.0	104.9	65	71.8	52	70.5	53
Infantile Mortality Rate	42.0	46	34.4	43	38.6	41	43.7	34
Maternal Mortality Rate	3.77	1.79	1.6	1.43	1.9	1.17	1.3	1.02
Crude Death Rate	13.16	11.4	13.06	11.5	13.25	12.0	10.4	10.8

MIDWIVES.

At the end of 1948 the number of Midwives who had notified their intention to practise in the County was 127, and these were distributed as follows :—

1. Domiciliary	(a) District Nurse Midwives	54
	(b) Village Nurse Midwives	19
	(c) Independent	7

	(d) Midwives living in adjacent Counties and taking occasional cases in Herefordshire	10
	(e) Practised in an Emergency	—
		90
2. Institutions	(f) Hospitals	26
	(g) P.A.I.'s	7
	(h) Nursing Homes	4
	(i) Ante-Natal Hostel	—
		37
	Grand Total	127
Supervision of Midwives		
	Routine Visits	69
	Special Visits	9
	"Medical Aid" requests by Midwives	482
Notification from Midwives :		
	Stillbirths	23
	Last Offices	19
	Suspected liability to be a source of infection	17
	Artificial feeding of infants	155
	Deaths of infants	9
	Deaths of mothers	1
Temporary suspension of Midwives due to liability of being a source of infection		12

NOTIFICATION OF BIRTHS 1948

	Live Births.			Still Births.			Confinements calculated from N.O.B.
	Single	Twin Babies	Total	Single	Twin Babies	Total	
At Home	915	18	933	14	2	16	939
Institutions :							
Bromyard	—	2	2	—	—	—	1
Kington	8	—	8	—	—	—	8
Ledbury	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Leominster	37	—	37	—	—	—	37
Ross-on-Wye	18	—	18	—	—	—	18
	63	2	65	—	—	—	64
Maternity Nursing Homes	147	4	151	2	—	2	151
Hospitals	960	39	999	34	1	35	1014
Grand Total	2085	63	2148	50	3	53	2168

HOME HELPS.

On the 5th July, 1948, the County Emergency Home Help Service and the Hereford City Domestic Help Service were amalgamated, under the National Health Service Act, 1946. The Scheme for the Service, approved by the Minister of Health under Section 29 of the Act, provides for 10 full-time and 20 part-time Home Helps and a full-time Organiser.

The types of cases covered are as follows :—

- (a) ill.
- (b) lying-in.
- (c) an expectant mother.
- (d) mentally defective.
- (e) aged, or
- (f) a child not over school age.

The Organiser is responsible for the recruitment of Home Helps. Applicants for enrolment are interviewed in their homes by the Organiser and in each case references are taken up.

The lack of transport in rural districts raises many difficulties. The Authority has no scheme for the provision of resident Home Helps. In a few cases, by mutual agreement between the applicant and the Home Help, the Home Help is given sleeping accommodation, food and one half-day a week, in exchange for performing duties in excess of the usual hours worked.

On the 31st December, 1948, there were 10 full-time and 15 part-time Home Helps.

In the period under review the number of cases dealt with was 58.

GENERAL PRACTITIONERS' ANTE-NATAL AND POST-NATAL SCHEME.

	County	
	<i>Ante-Natal</i>	<i>Post-Natal</i>
Number of patients examined	548	284
Number of examinations	901	284

MATERNITY HOMES.

	<i>No. of Homes on Register 31/12/48</i>	<i>Maternity Beds as at 31/12/48</i>	<i>Births during 1948</i>
Hereford City	2	7	118
Ross Urban	1	2	35

DENTAL TREATMENT—EXPECTANT AND NURSING MOTHERS.

During 1948, there were various changes in the scheme for dental treatment of Expectant and Nursing Mothers and Children under school age. Prior to 5th July, Hereford City had administered its own scheme for these patients so no report is made here for this period, although the staff was provided by the County Authority. In the County administrative area, the scheme enabling patients to visit private practitioners ceased on the "appointed day".

The following table shows the number of patients who completed treatment from the inception of the Scheme on 1st April, 1943, until the 4th July, 1948.

<i>Year.</i>	<i>Expectant Mothers</i>		<i>Nursing Mothers</i>	<i>Total</i>
	<i>Doctors' Cases</i>	<i>Midwives' Cases</i>		
1943	—	11	18	29
1944	5	26	43	74
1945	6	35	37	78
1946	9	32	49	90
1947	7	30	31	68
1948	1	14	15	30

After 5th July the County Authority was responsible for providing dental treatment in both City and County areas. The weekly session held previously in the City Clinic was continued for the rest of the year and a weekly visit to the Leominster District Hospital was paid for patients in the north of the County. While treatment at these clinics is available to Expectant and Nursing Mothers, they also have the right to attend any dentist willing to accept them as patients under the National Health Service Act, 1946.

The treatment facilities at Hereford were made available at the premises used for the treatment of school children. The surgery is centrally situated and several items of modern equipment are about to be provided. Each Friday afternoon is reserved for the treatment of mothers and toddlers and all ante-natal cases are encouraged to attend for inspection, but in practice it is found that only a small percentage do so. Arrangements for the supply of dentures have been made so that all types of normal dentistry are available.

The Leominster Clinic is only equipped with the portable items used for the treatment of school children. A weekly session is reserved for Expectant and Nursing Mothers, or, alternatively, for children. Every endeavour is made to keep separate the two classes of patients while best use is made of the dental surgeon's time. It is hoped that during the coming year additional equipment of a more suitable nature will be available to encourage the fuller working of this clinic. Plans are also on foot for opening and equipping clinics on similar lines in Ledbury and Ross.

Details of treatment provided during the period are as follows :—

	<i>Expectant and Nursing Mothers</i>	<i>Children under School age.</i>
No. of patients	57	29
No. of attendances for treatment	111	48
No. of teeth extracted	53	13
No. of teeth filled	38	19
No. of scalings	14	—
No. of dressings	9	29
No. of dentures	4	—
No. of other operations	18	11

CHILD WELFARE.

Babies are visited by the Midwives for 14 days after they are born. Under the Midwives Acts a Midwife may call in a general practitioner up to the 28th day after birth.

From the 14th day until one year of age infants are visited at least once a month by the Health Visitor, who is usually the same nurse as the midwife ; then at 3 monthly intervals until the child reaches the age of 5 years.

OPHTHALMIA NEONATORUM.

Notifications	County
Cases admitted to Victoria Eye Hospital.....	10
No. of cases in which permanent damage to eyes occurred	6
	—

PUERPERAL PYREXIA.

Notifications	13
Treated in Hospital	10

INFANT MORTALITY RATE.

The Infant Mortality Rate for England and Wales has shewn a steady decline since the beginning of the century, but the table below indicates that there has been a rise in the infant mortality rate for Herefordshire for 1948

Year	COUNTY.			England & Wales— Rate per 1,000 live births
	Live Births	Deaths under 1	Rate per 1,000 live births	
1939	1676	71	42	50
1940	1826	107	58	56
1941	1953	133	69	59
1942	2156	95	44	49
1943	2205	116	53	49
1944	2361	93	39.4	46
1945	2070	87	42	46
1946	2412	83	34.4	43
1947	2509	97	38.6	41
1948	2310	101	43.7	34

The causes of deaths of infants under 1 year of age as given by the Registrar General for 1947 and 1948 were as follows :—

CAUSES OF DEATH.	No. of Deaths	
	1947	1948
Whooping Cough	0	5
Syphilis	0	1
Bronchitis	1	3
Prematurity	19	19
Diarrhoea	9	7
Other digestive diseases	1	1
Pneumonia	13	15
Congenital malformations, birth injuries	46	45
Violent causes	5	3
All other causes	3	2
TOTALS	97	101

It would appear from this Table that there was no one cause of the increase in Infant Mortality in 1948. The deaths from prematurity appear to be relatively high. In 1948 prematurity was associated with other causes in 7 cases. It is noted that out of the total of 25 cases where prematurity was a factor, only one death occurred at home, the remaining 24 cases dying in hospital.

Neonatal Mortality. The number of babies dying under the age of one month in 1948, as reported by the Registrar of Births and Deaths, was 65. This can be sub-divided in the following way :—

Dying before 24 hours	24
„ from one day to two weeks	36
„ „ two weeks to one month	5

It is hoped that certain recommendations made will lead to rather better care for premature infants.

THE CARE OF THE ILLEGITIMATE CHILD (CIRCULAR 2866). January 1st—December 31st, 1948.

		No. of Cases		Year of Birth						Sent to						Grants from				Payments by			Work for		Other details				Foster-Mothers		
CASES REFERRED BY		Total	Married	Single	1949	1948	1948*	1947	1946	1945 or earlier	Voluntary Training Home	The Haven	Private Nursing Home	Children's Home	Foster-mother	Women's Land Army	London Society	C.E.C.'s Society	Social Welfare Department	Affiliation Order	Private Agreement	Girls for Expenses	Girls & Expectant Mothers	Mother with Baby	Given Clothes	Married P. Father	Married	Child Adopted	Child Died	Obtained	Refused
COUNTY HEALTH DEPART.	County Hospital	31	2	29	1	30	3	—	—	—	2	2	—	1	1	—	—	1	—	2	4	1	2	—	10	—	3	3	4	1	—
	County M.O.H.	5	—	5	3	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
	District Nurse/Health Visitor	9	4	5	2	5	1	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	5	1	1	—	—	2	—
Social Welfare Department		5	4	1	—	2	2	—	—	3	—	—	—	1	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	1	—	—	—	2	2	—	1	2
Clergy		2	1	1	—	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	1	—	1	—	—	—	3	—	—	—	—
Probation Officers...		8	5	3	—	5	—	—	—	3	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	2	2	1	—	—	1	1
London Societies		8	2	6	2	3	4	1	—	2	3	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	2	2	3	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
National Assistance Board		3	1	2	2	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
W.A.A.F. ...		1	—	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
W.V.S. ...		1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Children's Officer		1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—
Women's Land Army		2	1	1	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	—	1	1	—	—	—	—
N.S.P.C.C. ...		1	—	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Welfare Workers ...		13	2	11	2	8	7	1	—	2	3	—	1	—	4	—	—	1	—	—	6	4	5	3	3	—	1	3	2	—	—
Private Medical Practitioners		3	—	3	—	3	—	—	—	—	1	—	1	1	2	—	1	—	2	—	2	2	1	—	1	—	—	1	—	—	1
Others ...		20	10	10	1	6	5	3	1	9	—	3	—	1	3	—	—	1	—	—	2	1	1	3	1	1	2	3	—	3	5
TOTAL		113	34	79	15	68	22	6	1	23	9	5	2	5	12	2	1	4	2	2	17	12	15	12	22	5	14	12	6	9	9

*Cases referred in 1947.
 113 New Cases in 1948 including 18 Foster-mother or Adoption Applications
 151 Old Cases received after-care.
 1288 Visits were made.
 438 interviews given at Worker's Office.

INFANT WELFARE CENTRES.

There are ten Infant Welfare Centres in the County, including Hereford City.

At the majority of the ten Infant Welfare Centres there is a voluntary committee with several honorary officers who in many cases have carried out this work over a period of many years. They have been responsible for the day to day running of the Centre including the raising of money over and above that supplied by the County Council in the form of a small grant. An Assistant County Medical Officer attends regularly at each session and examines those children selected by the Nurse, and gives advice to the mothers.

The following table shows the attendances at the ten Centres in the County :—

Centre.	No. attended.	Infants under one year		Children 1—5 years	
		No. of attendances	No. attended for 1st time	No. of attendances	No. attended for 1st time
BROMYARD	224	420	49	208	9
COLWALL	27	68	12	189	13
DILWYN	25	19	6	148	—
HEREFORD CITY ...	887	5526	603	2169	228
KINGTON	92	244	50	365	—
LEDBURY	106	459	42	545	20
LEOMINSTER	154	1366	91	185	1
PONTRILAS	26	26	6	31	20
ROSS-ON-WYE	117	602	64	134	7
WEOBLEY	59	90	19	85	12
TOTAL	1717	8820	942	4059	310

A Weighing Centre was opened at Lower Sapey on 2nd April, 1948.

TUBERCULOSIS.

The diagnosis and treatment of tuberculosis this year has been transferred from the Local Health Authority to the Regional Hospital Boards. The Local Health Authority is still responsible for the prevention of tuberculosis and the care of the tuberculous.

Accordingly a Care and After Care Committee was appointed by the County Council and first met on 20th October 1948 when the appointment of a Welfare Officer primarily for tuberculosis work was approved. Proposals were adopted to continue or augment previous care measures for the tuberculous, such as boarding out of child contacts, provision of clothing for necessitous cases entering Sanatorium, extra nourishment, provision of beds and bedding and shelters. Steps were taken for the re-habilitation of tuberculous patients. In addition orders were placed for sputum disposal outfits to be issued to all discovered infectious cases, along with detailed instructions and reasons for their use. Co-operation with the Ministry of Labour and National Service is continued with a view to obtaining suitable employment for patients sufficiently recovered to undertake work.

It was hoped that the appalling conditions endured by many of the tuberculous patients at home would be ameliorated to some extent by the provision of Home Helps. These conditions were brought about by the dire insufficiency of Hospital and Sanatorium beds, and the small numbers of persons, whether of the same family or not, able or willing to look after these people.

A very great deal remains to be done in almost every department in the provision of after-care, but as so much depends on the economic situation it seems that progress is likely to be slow unless the real gravity of this disease is ever appreciated by the Government. It is probable that B.C.G. vaccination will be adopted in this country in future and this should be at least of some assistance in prevention.

PRIMARY NOTIFICATIONS.

	1943				1944				1945				1946				1947				1948			
	M	F	C	T	M	F	C	T	M	F	C	T	M	F	C	T	M	F	C	T	M	F	C	T
Pulmonary ...	62	58	19	139	58	52	18	128	46	47	26	119	65	52	12	129	57	57	17	131	76	47	7	130
Non-Pulmonary ...	7	12	25	44	6	13	9	28	7	14	23	44	6	18	16	40	9	12	20	41	10	13	7	30
Totals ...	183				156				163				169				172				160			

NO. OF DEFINITE CASES ON CLINIC REGISTER.

	1943				1944				1945				1946				1947				1948			
	M	F	C	T	M	F	C	T	M	F	C	T	M	F	C	T	M	F	C	T	M	F	C	T
Pulmonary ...	147	142	20	309	203	167	34	404	229	195	36	460	255	193	43	491	269	219	59	547	305	239	65	609
Non-Pulmonary ...	40	69	69	178	40	74	58	172	44	84	65	193	54	94	61	209	56	89	74	219	55	86	69	210
Totals ...	487				576				653				700				766				819			

DEATHS.

	1943				1944				1945				1946				1947				1948			
	M	F	C	T	M	F	C	T	M	F	C	T	M	F	C	T	M	F	C	T	M	F	C	T
Pulmonary ...	38	26	2	66	20	27	3	50	44	18	1	63	33	30	2	65	33	20	—	53	23	20	1	44
Non-Pulmonary ...	2	3	10	15	4	7	5	16	7	2	12	21	2	7	8	17	3	3	3	9	3	4	2	9
Totals ...	81				66				84				82				62				53			

TUBERCULOSIS MORTALITY.
DEATH RATE PER 1,000 POPULATION.

	Respiratory.		Non-Respiratory.		Total.	
	County.	Eng. & Wales	County.	Eng. & Wales	County.	Eng. & Wales.
1943 ...	.538	.515	.122	.104	.66	.619
1944 ...	.410	.485	.134	.098	.552	.583
1945 ...	.540	.520	.180	.100	.720	.620
1946 ...	.541	.46	.141	.08	.682	.54
1947 ...	.388	.475	.041	.08	.429	.555
1948 ...	.357	.44	.063	.07	.420	.51

INFECTIOUS DISEASE.

	Enteric		Scarlet Fever		Whooping Cough		Diphtheria		Erysipelas		Measles		Pneumonia (acute)		Puerperal Pyrexia		Ophthalmia Neonatorum		Cerebral Spinal Meningitis	
	Notf.	D'th	N	D	N	D	N	D	N	D	N	D	N	*D	N	D	N	D	N	D
URBAN DISTRICTS																				
Hereford City ...	1	—	52	—	103	3	3	—	5	—	115	—	7	13	6	—	2	—	2	—
Bromyard ...	—	—	—	—	4	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	—	—	—	—	2	—
Kington ...	1	—	1	—	30	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Ledbury ...	—	—	—	—	10	—	—	—	—	—	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Leominster ...	—	—	4	—	88	—	—	—	1	—	142	—	2	—	1	—	1	—	—	—
Ross-on-Wye ...	—	—	1	—	21	—	—	—	6	—	17	—	4	2	—	—	—	—	—	—
RURAL DISTRICTS																				
Bromyard ...	—	—	6	—	29	—	—	—	2	—	20	—	6	5	—	—	—	—	—	—
Dore & Bredwardine ...	1	—	11	—	95	—	1	—	3	—	36	—	9	5	—	—	2	—	—	—
Hereford ...	—	—	28	—	51	1	—	—	2	—	50	—	4	4	2	—	1	—	—	—
Kington ...	—	—	1	—	54	—	—	—	—	—	10	—	—	1	1	—	—	—	—	—
Ledbury ...	—	—	3	—	50	—	3	—	—	—	14	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Leominster & Wigmore ...	—	—	6	—	148	1	—	—	2	—	198	1	10	4	—	—	—	—	—	—
Ross & Whitechurch ...	1	—	4	—	49	—	—	—	2	—	68	—	12	3	2	—	—	—	—	—
Weobley ...	1	—	7	—	81	—	—	—	—	—	117	—	12	1	—	—	1	—	1	—

* All forms of Pneumonia.

CANCER.

DISTRICT (and Estimated Population)			No. of Deaths from Cancer (all forms)	SITE OF CANCER				Other sites
				Buccal Cavity & oesophagus (Male)	Uterus (Female)	Stomach and Duodenum	Breast	
Bromyard Urban	...	1666	4	—	—	—	—	4
Hereford M.B.	...	32150	61	3	4	8	6	40
Kington Urban	...	1968	2	—	—	—	—	2
Ledbury Urban	...	3667	5	1	—	—	—	4
Leominster M.B.	...	6170	9	1	—	1	—	7
Ross-on-Wye Urban	...	5180	9	1	—	1	1	6
Bromyard Rural	...	7408	11	1	3	3	1	3
Dore & Bredwardine Rural	...	8368	9	1	—	1	—	7
Hereford Rural	...	14400	28	1	2	9	3	13
Kington Rural	...	4752	11	—	—	4	1	6
Ledbury Rural	...	9013	24	2	—	3	1	18
Leominster & Wigmore R.	...	10530	19	—	2	6	4	7
Ross & Whitechurch Rural	...	11780	22	—	2	7	1	12
Weobley Rural	...	6548	11	—	—	1	1	9
All Districts	...	123600	225	11	13	44	19	138

DIPHTHERIA IMMUNISATION AND VACCINATION.

Prior to the "appointed day," with the exception of the City of Hereford, the County Council had undertaken diphtheria immunisation over the whole of the County for children up to the age of five, the District Councils being responsible for providing services for children between five and fifteen years. The City of Hereford, being a Welfare Authority, had the responsibility for this work as it applied to children under five years of age, and as City Council it was also their duty to provide similar arrangements for children over the age of five.

Vaccination was performed under the Vaccination Acts.

After the "appointed day", the County Council, as Local Health Authority, accepted responsibility for the running of a scheme in connection with Diphtheria Immunisation and Vaccination, for the whole County, including the City of Hereford. All medical practitioners providing general medical services in the area of the Local Health Authority were given the opportunity of providing services under Section 26 of the National Health Service Act, 1946, and all agreed to co-operate in the scheme. Lymph for smallpox vaccination and prophylactic for diphtheria immunisation is provided free of charge to general practitioners through the Public Health Laboratory, Hereford. The policy of offering immunisation at the infant welfare centres in the larger areas of population in the County was continued.

Use is being made of propaganda posters and pamphlets prepared by the Central Office of Information and Central Council for Health Education. Parents were also encouraged to accept immunisation, and the film "Defeat Diphtheria" was shown at meetings of Parents' Associations at Ledbury, Leominster, Kington and Ross-on-Wye, in connection with Health Education lectures. The best method was found to be that of personal persuasion by Health Visitors and District Nurses, in the homes of the children.

When the Health Visitor makes her first visit to the mother after the birth of the baby, she takes along a descriptive pamphlet setting out the dangers of diphtheria to the young child, and giving some facts about protection from this disease by immunisation. The mother is encouraged to have the baby immunised before the first birthday, but if this has not been done, the Health Visitor then takes along a "Birthday Greetings Card," and informs the mother that immunisation is obtainable free of charge, either from her own family doctor, or from the local infant welfare centre, whichever is more convenient. As regards older children, immunisation is offered at the school medical inspections on the child first attending school, and when he reaches nine years of age, either a full course, or a re-inforcing injection when the child has been immunised in infancy.

As with immunisation, at the first visit after the birth of the child, the Health Visitor takes along to the mother a personal letter from me pointing out the importance of early vaccination, and a form of consent is embodied in this letter. The mother is requested to take her child to her own general practitioner for vaccination to be performed, or to attend the special Vaccination Clinic in Hereford. If the child has not been vaccinated at 12 months of age, then the Health Visitor forwards a report to the County Health Department with Infant Welfare first year card, stating the reasons for refusal.

The following table shows the number of persons vaccinated (or re-vaccinated) during the period 5th July, 1948 to 31st December, 1948.

	<i>Under 1</i>	<i>1—4.</i>	<i>5—14.</i>	<i>15 or over</i>	
	<i>1948.</i>	<i>1944—1947.</i>	<i>1934—1943.</i>	<i>before 1934.</i>	<i>TOTAL.</i>
Vaccinated	306	25	15	9	355
Re-vaccinated	—	2	10	59	71

No cases were specially reported during the period of (a) Generalised Vaccinia, and (b) Post-vaccinal Encephalomyelitis, and no deaths from complications of vaccination other than (a) or (b).

No vaccination statistics are available prior to the 5th July, 1948, when the new scheme came into operation.

DIPHTHERIA IMMUNISATION.

This table was made after ascertaining the corrected notifications for the calendar year and the number of death registrations transferred to and from the Authority's area by the General Register Office.

I. Immunisation in Relation to Child Population.

Number of Children at 31st December, 1948, who had completed a course of Immunisation *at any time before that date* (i.e., at any time since 1st January, 1934).

AGE AT 31/12/48. <i>i.e.</i> , Born in Year.	Under 1 1948	1 1947	2 1946	3 1945	4 1944	5—9 1939-43	10—14 1934-38	Total under 15	Estimated mid-year child population, 1948		
									Under5	5-14	Total
COUNTY DISTRICT.											
Bromyard U.D.	2	34	15	14	22	131	135	353	164	271	435
Hereford M.B.	17	303	359	376	437	2189	1926	5607	2742	4408	7150
Kington U.D.	2	30	27	30	32	135	137	393	177	278	455
Ledbury U.D.	2	40	53	32	27	208	235	597	304	534	838
Leominster M.B.	2	45	51	55	59	204	238	654	558	900	1458
Ross-on-Wye U.D.	—	51	38	33	62	243	246	673	455	739	1194
Bromyard R.D.	9	60	77	67	47	388	390	1038	674	1140	1814
Dore & Bredwardine R.D. ...	2	72	86	76	75	381	453	1145	788	1310	2098
Hereford R.D.	3	94	114	85	111	630	660	1697	1167	1880	3047
Kington R.D.	3	44	41	40	29	226	256	639	401	718	1119
Ledbury R.D.	2	62	57	61	96	510	582	1370	710	1549	2259
Leominster & Wigmore R.D. ...	6	75	111	83	95	452	506	1328	939	1534	2473
Ross & Whitchurch R.D.	2	81	82	100	134	700	754	1853	1048	1666	2714
Weobley R.D.	3	51	65	42	39	286	310	796	649	924	1573
Total—Area of L.H.A. ...	55	1042	1176	1094	1265	6683	6828	18143	10776	17851	28627

II. Diphtheria Notifications and Deaths in Relation to Immunisation during the Year 1948.

There were *three notifications* of diphtheria during the year 1948, of children under 15 years of age. Two were in the Ledbury R.D., 1 in age group 5—9 and 1 in age group 10—14. Both the child in group 5—9 and group 10—14 had completed a full course of immunisation. The other notification was that of a non-immunised child in age group 10—14, in the Dore & Bredwardine R.D.

There were *no deaths* from diphtheria in the area of the Local Health Authority during the year 1948.

CAUSES OF DEATH AT DIFFERENT PERIODS OF LIFE IN THE ADMINISTRATIVE COUNTY OF HEREFORD. 1948.

CAUSES OF DEATH	AGGREGATE OF URBAN DISTRICTS						AGGREGATE OF RURAL DISTRICTS						Total Urban (all ages)	Total Rural (all ages)	Total County (all ages)
	0—	1—	5—	15—	45—	65—	—0	1—	5—	15—	45—	65—			
1. Typhoid & Paratyphoid Fevers															
2. Cerebro Spinal Fever															
3. Scarlet Fever															
4. Whooping Cough	3						2						3	2	5
5. Diphtheria															
6. Tub. of Resp. System				11	6	2		1		17	6	2	19	26	45
7. Other Forms of T.B.			1		2			1		2	2		3	5	8
8. Syphilitic Diseases					2	1	1				1	2	3	4	7
9. Influenza												1		1	1
10. Measles									1					1	1
11. Ac.polio-myl.& polio-enceph															
12. Ac. inf. enceph.												1		1	1
13. Cancer of buc. cav. & oesoph. (M) uterus (F)					3	7				1	5	8	10	14	24
14. Cancer of stomach & duodenum				2	2	6				2	7	25	10	34	44
15. Cancer of breast				1	2	4					4	8	7	12	19
16. Cancer of all other sites ...				5	22	36		1		3	15	56	63	75	138
17. Diabetes				1	1	4					1	4	6	5	11
18. Intracranial vascular lesions				1	12	64					19	82	77	101	178
19. Heart Disease				9	25	134				2	32	218	168	252	420
20. Other dis. of circ. system				1		19					3	25	20	28	48
21. Bronchitis	1				7	13	2	1	1	1	6	22	21	33	54
22. Pneumonia	6	1			2	7	9	3			2	9	16	23	39
23. Other resp. dis.				1	2				1	1	1	5	3	8	11
24. Ulcer of stomach or duodenum ...				1	4	4					2	2	9	4	13
25. Diarrhoea under 2 years	2						5						2	5	7
26. Appendicitis			1	1	1								3		3
27. Other digve. dis.					1	3	1	2		1	2	9	4	15	19
29. Nephritis					7	8					3	22	15	25	40
29. Puer. & Post-abortion, sepsis				1									1		1
30. Other maternal causes ...				1						1			1	1	2
31. Prem. Births	7						12						7	12	19
32. Con. Mal. birth inj. infant dis	16	2	1	1			29	1					20	30	50
33. Suicide				2	4	3				6	3	2	9	11	20
34. Road Traffic accidents ...				4	1				1	5	2	1	5	9	14
35. Other violent causes ...	2	1		4	2	8	1	1	1	2	2	8	17	15	32
36. All other causes	1			8	7	35	1	1	2	7	9	47	51	67	118
37. All causes	38	4	3	55	115	348	63	12	7	51	127	559	573	819	1392

MENTAL HEALTH.

As from the 5th July, 1948, by virtue of the National Health Service Act, 1946, the County Council, as Local Health Authority, became responsible for administering the Lunacy & Mental Treatment Acts, 1890—1930, and these functions, together with those arising under the Mental Deficiency Acts, 1913—1938, have been operating centrally from the Health Department, since the “appointed day”, in accordance with the proposals submitted under Section 51 of the National Health Service Act, 1946.

A Mental Health Sub-Committee has been appointed consisting of members of the Local Health Authority, representatives of the Education Committee, and co-opted members of organisations interested in the Mental Health Service. All matters concerned with mental health are submitted to the Committee quarterly, and in so far as the duties of the Local Health Authority are concerned under the new legislation, they have directly at their disposal the services of the County Medical Officer to advise on mental health questions.

At present the medical staff consists of the County Medical Officer, Deputy County Medical Officer, and three Assistant County Medical Officers, undertaking amongst other matters, the work of ascertainment of mental defectives throughout the administrative county area.

In cases of mental illness involving special difficulty, consultative and specialist medical advice is available at Clinics within the City of Hereford, maintained by the Regional Hospital Board.

The Local Health Authority has appointed a former County District Welfare Officer as “Duly Authorised Officer” for the County, to take initial procedure under the Lunacy & Mental Treatment Acts for the care and treatment of persons of unsound mind or otherwise mentally sick.

This officer is operating from the Health Department, and in order to maintain a twenty-four hour service, the County Mental Deficiency Organiser and a responsible Health Department Officer, have been designated “Duly Authorised Officers” to deputise as and when necessary.

With regard to the administration of the Mental Deficiency Acts, in addition to the medical personnel, the Local Health Authority has, during the period under review, appointed a fully qualified Mental Deficiency Organiser who is also acting as “Duly Authorised Officer”, and appointments will be made of two Mental Deficiency Welfare Officers to act with the Organiser in carrying out the statutory duties and community welfare in the County.

Occupation Centres are not yet functioning in the County, but the matter is receiving very close study as part of the development envisaged in the Mental Health Service.

The supervision of patients on licence from Institutions for Mental Defectives is being undertaken by the Local Health Authority, and it has been agreed to make certain after-care visits to patients discharged from the mental hospital, at the request of the Medical Superintendent, to ease the work of the Psychiatric Social Worker, who is based on the mental hospital.

In the development of the mental health services in the County it is realised that a very useful part can be played in community welfare by voluntary bodies, and these agencies although not yet called upon, are clearly a factor in the general scheme of things, to be kept in mind by the Local Health Authority.

Authority has been given for the Duly Authorised Officer and Mental Deficiency Welfare Officers to attend approved courses in mental health work, and will be implemented as early as practicable.

Account of Work undertaken in the Community, 5th July, 1948 to 31st December, 1948.

Under the Lunacy and Mental Treatment Acts, 1890—1930 by the Duly Authorised Officers.

	<i>Males.</i>	<i>Females.</i>	<i>Total.</i>
Cases removed to Mental Hospital under Section 16, Lunacy Act, 1890. (Summary Reception Order)	12	26	38
Cases detained in Mental Hospital under :—			
Section 20 Lunacy Act, 1890 (3 day Order)	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.
“ 21 (1) “ “ (14 “ “ “)	1	Nil.	1
Cases removed under Section 5 (1) of the Mental Treatment Act (Temporary Patient)	Nil.	3	3
Cases admitted under Section 1 (2) of the Mental Treatment Act, 1930 (Voluntary—under 16 years of age)	Nil.	1	1
Cases transferred to other Mental Hospitals under Section 64—70, Lunacy Act, 1890	1	Nil.	1
Cases notified but persuaded to enter hospital for voluntary treatment	6	4	10
Other cases investigated and found not to justify procedure under the Lunacy & Mental Treatment Acts	3	3	6
	23	37	60

Protection of Patients' Property.

(SECTION 1, LUNACY ACT, 1908).

(SECTION 48, NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACT, 1948).

In appropriate cases the function of ascertaining and reporting details of the property of persons admitted to the mental hospital, for the purpose of protection, is undertaken by the Duly Authorised Officer. Two such cases have been dealt with during the period under review.

Mental Deficiency Acts, 1913—1938.

The ascertainment of mental defectives and the investigation of new cases reported to the Local Health Authority has been undertaken. With regard to cases notified to the Local Health Authority by the Local Education Authority under Section 57, Sub-sections 3 and 5, of the Education Act, 1944, the Organiser has visited the parents prior to the official notification being received and before the expiration of the 14 days notice provided by the said Act, in order to explain the purport of the communication and the provisions made by the Local Health Authority for the training, supervision or care, in accordance with the needs of the children concerned. This practice has been greatly appreciated by the parents, as it has alleviated their fears that their children would necessarily be placed in Institutions.

At the end of 1948 there were 19 defectives awaiting vacancies in Institutions.

Guardianship and Supervision.

During the period under review no Guardianship Orders were obtained. Three cases are, however, visited quarterly on behalf of other Local Health Authorities.

The County has been divided into three areas, and it is intended that the Organiser and two Welfare Officers shall each visit defectives under statutory supervision quarterly.

Training.

The Authority's Home Teaching Scheme has not been implemented in this period owing to lack of staff.

CERTIFIED CASES.

The cases certified and treated in Institutions on 31st December, 1948, are as follows :—

	<i>Males.</i>	<i>Females.</i>
Alton Street Hospital, Ross	19	20
Stoke Park Colony, Bristol	10	12
Rampton State Institution	5	—
Moss Side State Institution	1	1
Hortham Colony, Bristol	1	—
All Souls' Special School, Hillingdon	—	1
Royal Earlswood Institution, Redhill	1	1
The Home, Everton Terrace, Liverpool	—	1
Lisieux Hall Institution, Chorley	1	—
Brentry Colony, Bristol	1	—
Lemington Hall Institution, Alnwick	—	1
LICENCE.		
Hazeldon Hostel, Cirencester	2	—
Bathwick Hostel, Bath	—	1
Nicuport Sanatorium, Eardisley	—	1
Alton Street Hospital, Ross (Staff)	1	—
Private Homes in Ross area	—	2
Private Homes in Bristol area	—	1
In care of parents	—	1
	42	43

INDEX.

	<i>Page.</i>
ANTE-NATAL AND POST-NATAL SCHEME—GENERAL PRACTITIONERS	6
BIRTHS, NOTIFICATION OF	5
CANCER	12
CARE OF THE ILLEGITIMATE CHILD	9
CHILD WELFARE	7
DEATH, CAUSES OF	15
DENTAL TREATMENT—EXPECTANT AND NURSING MOTHERS	6
DIPHTHERIA IMMUNISATION AND VACCINATION	13
HOME HELPS	6
INFANT WELFARE CENTRES	10
INFANT MORTALITY RATE	8
INFECTIOUS DISEASE	12
MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE	3
MATERNITY HOMES	6
MENTAL HEALTH	16
MIDWIVES	4
OPHTHALMIA NEONATORUM	8
PUERPERAL PYREXIA	8
STAFF	2
STATISTICS—GENERAL	3
TUBERCULOSIS	10

